

# VIRTUAL WORKSHOP SERIES

*Implementing the AU-EU Innovation Agenda*

2

Access to Finance  
29th May 2024



#AUEU #InnovationAgenda #PositiveAgenda #MakingItHappen #ItsHappening

## Virtual Workshop Series: Implementing the AU-EU Innovation Agenda

Second Virtual Workshop - Access to Finance

29 May 2024, 10:00-15:00 CEST

### Introduction

Building on the [AU-EU Innovation Festival](#) of June 2023, the [AU-EU Innovation Agenda Stakeholder Event](#) of November 2022 and the first [AU-EU Innovation Agenda Workshops on IPRs](#) in November 2023, this Virtual Workshop is the second in a series dedicated to implement the short-term actions of the [AU-EU Innovation Agenda](#).

The aim of these Workshops is to provide African and European innovators and the wider stakeholder community involved in the implementation of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda with practical opportunities for training, growth, networking and collaboration.

This second edition will specifically focus on Access to Finance:

- Get the **latest updates on African Union and European research and innovation developments** from high level AU and EU representatives.
- Listen to researchers and innovators **sharing experiences** on the outcomes and opportunities they have been able to seize through their participation in the work of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda.
- Tune in for the **AU-EU Deep Tech Transformation Training Scheme**, informing you on how to build financial literacy, how to navigate public and private funding and lastly how to capitalise on new opportunities.
- Join the **Virtual Coffee** and network with fellow innovators, entrepreneurs, researchers, investors and policy makers in three different break-out rooms.

### The AU-EU Innovation Agenda

The [AU-EU Innovation Agenda](#) is a joint policy initiative that will guide the next decade of cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation between Africa and Europe, with the aim of fostering the translation of research and innovation into tangible products, services, businesses and jobs. On the EU side, the AU-EU Innovation Agenda is a strategic partnership supported by the [Global Gateway](#) and [Horizon Europe](#). The joint Agenda has four objectives, translated into short, medium- and long-term actions, in the four priority areas of AU-EU cooperation in research and innovation, namely Public Health, Green Transition, Innovation and Technology, and Capacities for Science, as well as the additional area of Cross-cutting Issues.

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## Programme

Timeslot (CEST)	Session
10:00 – 10:40	<b>Session 1: Opening Session</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Welcome remarks</b> <i>By African Union Commission and European Commission</i></li><li>• <b>It's happening!" – Updates on the AU-EU Innovation Agenda, following adoption of July 2023</b> <i>By Lukovi Seke, AUDA -NEPAD &amp; Dr Vincenzo Lorusso, European Commission</i></li><li>• <b>Introduction to the Global Gateway Initiative</b> <i>By Eleonora Rella, European Commission</i></li></ul>
10:40 – 11:00	<b>Session 2: Experience sharing" – Taking stock on the AU-EU Innovation Agenda</b> <i>By Idrissi Ganouni Najat, ARIR</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Testimonial from the AU-EU Innovation Festival sharing insides on the experiences with the AU-EU Innovation Agenda</li></ul>
11:00 – 11:30	Deep-Tech Training Transformation Scheme–Access to Finance for Innovation <b>Session 3.1: Access to risk finance for all - Building financial literacy for researchers and innovators</b> <i>By Houda Ghozzi, Open Startup &amp; Prof. Lukas Menkhoff, Humboldt University</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduction to financial language and terminology</li><li>• Best practice for financial management</li></ul>
11:30 – 12:45	Deep-Tech Training Transformation Scheme–Access to Finance for Innovation <b>Session 3.2: Navigating public and private R&amp;I funding schemes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Overview of public and private funding opportunities for researchers and innovators<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ African and European Business Networks</li><li>○ African Union and European Union funding <i>By Carl Elmstam, European Commission</i></li><li>○ African Union and European Union Member States initiatives</li></ul></li></ul>

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	<p><i>By Prof. Mokthar Sellami, National Council for Scientific Research and Technologies Algeria &amp; Maria Maia, Foundation for Science and Technology Portugal</i></p>
12:45 – 13:15	<p>Deep Tech Training Transformation Scheme – Access to finance for Innovation</p> <p><b>Session 3.3: Developing critical financial skills to anticipate future problems and opportunities</b></p> <p><i>By Björn-Sören Gigler, GIZ &amp; N.N., ENRICH in Africa</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Overview of how to access new opportunities to secure a long-term financing for your business</li></ul>
13:15 – 13:30	<p><b>Session 4: Closing Remarks and Next Steps</b></p> <p><i>By African Union Commission and European Commission</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Recap of key insights and takeaways from the workshop</li><li>• Announcement of follow-up resources, tools, and opportunities to continue the dialogue and next virtual workshop of the series</li></ul>
13:30 – 14:00	<p><b>Lunch Break</b></p>
14:00 – 15:00	<p><b>Session 5: “Virtual Coffee” – Matchmaking and Networking Session</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Session 5.1: Limited funding opportunities &amp; lack of venture capital</b> <i>With Bruce Nsereko-Lule, Seedstars Africa Ventures</i></li><li>• <b>Session 5.2: Technology transfer &amp; bridging the gap between universities and industries</b> <i>With Nolene Singh, Stellenbosch University - Technology Transfer Office</i></li><li>• <b>Session 5.3: Access to finance for AI start-ups</b> <i>With Cristina Battaglia, RAISE - Robotics and AI for Socio-economic Empowerment (tbc)</i></li></ul>



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## Contacts

In case of any questions please e-mail [AU-EU-Innovation@servicefacility.eu](mailto:AU-EU-Innovation@servicefacility.eu)